



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

Meeting Minutes

#1. Call to Order/Welcome

The Regular Meeting of the First Things First Santa Cruz Regional Partnership Council was held on Monday April 07, 2014 at the Santa Cruz Provisional College Board Room, 2021 N. Grand Avenue, Nogales, Arizona 85621. Chair William Kirkpatrick welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m. He welcomed and thanked Senior Director Erin Lyons. He thanked Ms. Sue Nielsen, Director of the Santa Cruz Provisional College, for the meeting space. He asked each member to introduce themselves, identifying their seat.

Members Present

Chair William Kirkpatrick, David Verdugo, Danna Gallardo, Veronica Santillo and Lee Vellom.

Members Attending Telephonically

Anna Lepa, Dr. Melisa Lunderville

Members Absent

Vice-Chair Karen Woodford and Karen Guilmette

#2. Approval of Minutes

Chair Kirkpatrick directed everyone to the draft of the minutes of March 3, 2014 and asked if there was a motion to approve. Member Gallardo so moved, Member Vellom seconded the motion. Motion carried.

#3. Call to the Public

none

#4. Discussion and Possible Action: Regional Benchmarking

Chair Kirkpatrick turned the agenda item over to Regional Director Francisco Padilla. He led the Regional Council through a review of the benchmarking process and decisions made by the Regional Council, using Attachment 2. He reminded that the Regional Council worked with Dr. Amy Kemp facilitating the discussions for these School Readiness Indicators. After the Regional Council arrived at their proposed benchmarks, Dr. Kemp provided the opportunity for Public Vetting at a forum on March 4, 2014. The option for online vetting was also announced, there were three participants.

Having heard no requests for any changes to the proposed benchmarks Member Santillo made a motion that the Council approve the benchmark as: School Readiness Indicator 2 to be presented to the State Board as 90% of children enrolled in an early care and education program with a Quality First rating of 3-5 starts by 2020. Additionally that the Santa Cruz Regional Council approve the benchmark for School Readiness Indicator 10 to be presented to the State Board as 42% of families will feel competent and confident about their ability to support their child's safety, health and well-being by 2020. Member Gallardo seconded the motion, motion carried.

#5. Discussion: Fiscal Policy Direction from First Things First Finance Committee

Referring everyone to Attachment 3, Chair Kirkpatrick requested Director Padilla provide the overview. He explained that the Finance Committee, consisting of State Board and Regional Council members last met on March 3, 2014. The Finance Committee considered several options in determining where to set the budgets and maintaining balanced budgets. The three options were:

1) Continue with current policy and set the annual budget based on revenue coming in, and have Regional Councils spend down carry forward balances at their "own" pace. Based on current expenditure budgets, Regional Councils will spend down their carry

forward at varying times across the next three year funding plan cycle. As Regional Councils fully expend carry forward balances, Funding Plans will need to be adjusted down to recognize the reduced revenue available. The fiscal year in which the budget is rebalanced would vary for each Region.

2) Increase the amount of revenue made available by the Board to the Program Budget which maintains the current spending/ budgets proposed in the FY15 funding plans through FY18. After FY18, all Program balances would be gone and spending adjustments would need to be uniformly made going forward at that point.

3) Set the annual budget for FY16 at a level spending that can be sustained for a long period of time, beyond the three year funding cycle. Regional Councils would align spending to this revenue level, and it is assumed this will be a reduction compared to FY15 levels as the annual budget would be less than the annual budget for FY15.

Two formal recommendations will be made to the Board. These will be discussed at the April 2013 Board meeting and voted on at the June 2013 Board meeting. They were:

1) Beginning in FY16, the start of the new three-year Funding Plan Cycle, allocate \$126.6 million in revenues to support Program spending (statewide and regional combined), and keep this amount constant for successive years.

2) In FY16, the total means of financing available to support regional allotments should equal the targeted \$126.6 million level, and so regional allocations should be adjusted such that each region's projected fund balance (regional carry forward) is part of the allocation level rather than being an addition.

These recommendations are based on reasonable (neither overly optimistic nor pessimistic) revenue projections and will allow FTF to maintain its program spending at a consistent level for an estimated 9-15 years.

There was discussion, questions were asked and answered. Director Padilla clarified that the Santa Cruz Region should anticipate an approximate 20% reduction in SFY16. He expressed that all of the data needed to make the necessary decisions is not yet available. He feels that the final Family Support evaluation by the Harder & Co. will be valuable and will be holding a workgroup where it can be discussed.

#6 Discussion: System Building in the Santa Cruz Region

Director Padilla updated everyone on the Birth to Five Coalition; core members include Debbie Curley, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension/Director of the Family Resource Centers, Joyce Latura, Mariposa Community Health Center/Director of Maternal Child Health, Yara Castro, Child & Family Resource and himself. They will be working with Wholonomy, a consultant, who will assist with Partner Mapping, paid by Mariposa Community Health Center, in an effort to close the gap for children missing out on needed services and establish follow-through for referrals received. They will be developing their goals and a mission statement. There will be a meeting on May 13th, breakfast will be provided. There are approximately 30-40 others representing appropriate agencies who will be invited.

#7. Regional Director's Report

Regional Director Padilla referenced the Expenditure Report noting that using previous years experiences, all grantees will finish the year with essentially total expenditures. He advised that University of Arizona's Norton School of Business is on track to complete the 2014 Needs and Assets Report. An initial draft will be available April 10th, it will be more data than text; the June draft will be available for the Regional Council.

He informed everyone of the Communications Plan. The 3 goals will be:

1. Raise awareness of, and build public support for, the importance of early childhood.
2. Position First Things First as a recognized and trusted voice in early childhood.
3. Build awareness of early childhood programs and services, particularly First Things First statewide initiatives.

He reported that this is a change in direction. The original focus was going to be on Quality First. After much stakeholder feedback, it was decided that a lot of people still don't know about First Things First and what FTF does, so it was decided that the media campaign will put the emphasis on what First Things First is and what we do. He added that new billboards will be coming soon.

He announced the Chair/Vice-Chair meeting on May 1st which will focus on the new Fiscal Policy. He spoke of the first ever Autism Awareness Day where he participated for first Things First on April 2nd and felt it was valuable. He will also be participating at the Western Head Start's Parent Fair on Friday April 11th; which was well-attended last year. Another upcoming event will be the Children's Health Fair at the Wal-Mart parking lot, sponsored by Cenpatico. He also reviewed the upcoming readings at preschools.

#8. Regional Council and Staff Announcements

Administrative Assistant Susan Faubion mentioned that Regional Council members with events upcoming are welcome to let the office know and if space is available they can be added to the Friday 5.

Member Vellom announced his resignation from the Regional Council and submitted his letter so stating which will be sent to the State Board. He will be relocating to San Antonio, Texas and believes that he has found his replacement. Member Verdugo said that it was great to hear about all of the collaboration efforts. Director Padilla announced that he and his wife are expecting their first child in early November. Member Gallardo announced that Patagonia will have a grand opening of their youth center on April 26th. She will supply more information about it. She also thanked Director Padilla for the reading that he does at the preschools.

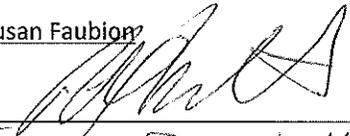
#9. General Discussion

None

#10. Meeting Reminder/Adjourn

Chair Kirkpatrick reminded everyone that the next meeting would be held on May 05, 2014 at 3:30 p.m., at the Sunshine Christian Preschool Cafeteria, 1915 N. Frank Reed Rd., Nogales, Arizona 85621. Member Vellom made a motion to adjourn seconded by Member Verdugo, motion carried, the time was 4:28 p.m.

Submitted by Susan Faubion

Approved by 

Dated this 5 day of Mayo de Mayo, 2014